If the State is in possession of such Metal as is defined, the grant will be attended with beneficial Effects; Exclusive of the protection they will afford; it will animate the zealous, and give to all general Satisfaction.—

Their observations on the importance of the Trade of the Rivers in the lower Counties, to the Inhabitants in their respective Neighbourhood, are just. Taxes they know are necessary, and to broad and deep Taxation they will cheerfully submit; but to have that Burthen made still heavier by frequent calls from their Farms, to repell the inroads of Pirates and plunderers; they consider as ruinous and oppressive. To some the Navigation of the Rivers are necessary to enable them to discharge their public dues. This is now rendered precarious and expensive. You will understand Sir, their remarks on this subject are offered upon a belief, that the State is able to defend its Rivers against the small Defects that infest them; And if this belief is well founded they have certainly reason to complain and to represent.—

If there is any naval Force of the State which can be directed to the objects which the petitioners desire, that is scarcely any Act of the Executive, would give more